## THE WERGUNDER THE LOCAL LIMELIGHTS

## "The Play's the Thing" a Sadly Overworked Axiom --- The Players a Factor Not to Be Overlooked --- The Chicago Critics and the Late Lamented New Theater.

average dramatic reviewer regards more tured him for the last year or two, and than another with almost filial rever- which he ought to make a big thing of, an entirely different sense from that in time comes-if it does come-judging the thing." That is regarded as the cornerstone, the one foundation, of all pany, which Mansfield doesn't; and, dramatic criticism.

"The play's the thing!" Well so it is, but it's not the whole thing-not by a long shot! There's the player too-a contributing circumstance not to be overlooked.

For instance again-the two most im-The Squaw Man," at the Nationprobably what Langdon Mitchell did; roaring farce.

Man." I do not remember that Mr. Royle has said what he meant to write; what he has written is melodrama.

That is nothing against it; quite the Melodrama, rightly treated, is one of the finest, most eloquent forms drama, of course; but Mr. Faversham to expect loyal service, it was not from plays his melodrama "with a differ--a difference all compact of re- The scheme was really wrecked on the

is. But as to what thing-well, that de-

performance. The New York papers, many of them, realized its importance critics up to it, and reviewed it at as contracts do not allow him to give any further performances to season. Next season, though he is still to play

There were many reasons for the brief "The Squaw Man," he is also to give performances of "The World—and His Wife" in all the large cities. It is to be hoped that Washington is to be accounted in that class.

It is to be hoped, too, that before very my work, to protest against the con-long Mr. Faversham will get out from demnation of my Chicago brethren, and under the managerial wing, and pre-to point out that at least one of the senting himself, as Mansfield, for in-determining factors in that failure was stance, does, present some of the things a too fixed faith in the theory that the he really wants to present-more serious | play's the thing-to the exclusion of the things, such as his Echegary play, such | players.

If there is one quotation that the as Stephen Phillips' "Hered," which has ence and tenderness, and applies in if he ever undertakes it. When that which it was written, it is "The play's from his past record, Mr. Faversham though he may not enrich himself, he undoubtedly will enrich the English-

not to be overlooked.

For instance, last Menday night "Othello" was played by a Brooklyn stock company. It is generally classed among the tragedies of the immortal William. But it proved uproariously funny. The audience laughed till it cried. It was fairly engulfed in a tidal wave of hilarity. The manager of the house moved to wrath by the unseemly Play's the Thin;"-but not the whole house moved to wrath by the unseemly Union where dramatic criticism in a and go. It didn't; it was having too James O'Donnell Bennett, of the Chicago Record-Herald; W. L. Hubbard of the Tribune; Burns Mantle, of the portant offerings of the last two weeks. Inter-Ocean; Percy Hammond; of the "The New York Idea," at the Belusco, Evening Post, etc., etc., There are none Evening Post, etc., etc. There are none al. Langdon Mitchell says he did not terest and with surer confidence in their mean to write a funny play. Perhaps intelligent desire to do justice and to not. As played it is concentrated cieverness—a satire and a sermon—which is greater respect for "Jimmie" Bennett's mean. But in hands just a trifle less I ever think as well of my own judgdeft it would have degenerated into a ment, and my expression of it as I do of his, I shall be quite disgustingly self satisfied. While I do not always honestly agree with his honestly expressed views-well-the chances are I'm wrong, And as to the "New Theater" in Chieago, its fate was brought about not by adverse criticism, but by bad manageis one of the finest, most eloquent forms ment. The Chicago critics were all kindly inclined to the scheme. They did player to treat it rightly. "The Squaw all they could to encourage it. But as the playgoers' true friends—and that sort of a melodrama—the couldn't-see-the-stage-for-the-smoke sort. Done that were forced eventually to admit that way, with almost no change in the lines, said playgoer was more likely to it would have packed the late lamented get his money's worth elsewhere than Academy to the doors. Done as Mr. there. If the trustees of the affair met Faversham does it, it remains melo- with bad faith where they had a right

inee, for a charity, given during his re- man realism, and French comedy. Still, as a dramatic event and sent their nately there were the players. Those ingreat length as if it had been produced company. There were some thoroughly on Broadway. But Mr. Faversham's capable members of it, but with one or

To return to my original text-"The

mirth, told the audience that if it could truer sense exists. There are no more not control itself it could take its money

serve and quiet suggestion. It would not reefs of social jealousies. If it hadn't have pleased the Academy, perhaps; but been it would inevitably have gone it certainly made the play at the National.

"The play's the thing." Of course, it is. But as to what thing—well, that depends entirely on the player.

It was a matter for regret to many that Mr. Faversham did not play here "The World-and Hic Wife," adapted by Nirdlinger from the Spanish "El Gran Galeoto" of Echegaray. He has been wanting to do it for a long time, and realized his ambition in the single mat. cent Boston engagement. The Boston papers were a unit in their praise of the interest had the play indeed been the thing, and the whole thing. Unfortuterested in the New Theater found it

> There were many reasons for the brief want, with all gratitude for the assur-

## Just Here and There Among Theatrical Folk

Julian Eltinge, who comes to the to be conducted by members of the re Chase Theater this week, tells a good spective companies that are playing in story on himself, in which he was the New York the week of May 6. offender in a case of mistaken identity. When he made his hit in the title

In due time he presented himself at the New York office of Klaw & Erlanger, and, after waiting until a dozen or so chorus girls had been disposed of. dark pot sted beard and an unassuming of record business in this city for the "Mr. Erlanger is very busy right Great Divide," potwithstanding its im-now," said the little man. "Won't I mense popularity and financial success

The German Emperor has signified role of "Miss Simplicity," at Harvard, his intention of attending the performhe was immediately made the prey of ance of "Antony and Cleopatra" which

> In the receipts for the special per formance of the Miller-Anglin company last Monday right Manager L. S. Taylor right Great Divide," potwithstanding its im- self with a job on his hands that he did

AT THE NATIONAL.
to New York in October to proa new play in Belasco's new thea-I intend to build up a repertor Master, and the new play. That con bination may mean a million more." Wednesday matinee was the 854th per and been \$399,994 since October 1.

Miss Marie Booth Russell (in privat

Rose Stahl, asked for a definition of !

Robert Edeson, being asked for a pho-

The principal newspoper carte life Mrs. Robert Maptell) has completed of America will provide original sketches a stage arrangement for Ibsen's tragedy for the art booth of the Actors' Fund italian actor, to these sheres, William of "Brand." The play will be included Fair, in New York, May 6 to 11. F. Op- Winter, veteran critic of the New York

before the present season closes. It hypocrisy without any useless parawill, of course, be in his successful re-vival of "Rip Van Winkle." phrase, striking out straight from the shoulder and without any padding in the derful power and with a magnificent tograph of himself in typical summer cast, ran for nearly seven months at the costume, said: 'I haven't such a photograph. But use one of Vulcan at his identical company and the complete proforge. Any old blacksmith looks as I duction, Charles Frohman presents "The Hypocrites" at the New National Theater the week of April 15.

Apropos of the coming of Novelli, the in Mr. Mantell's repertoire next season, per, Hemer Davenport, R. F. Outcault, Tribune, unburdens himself on "the forthe was immediately made the prey of the was immediately made the prey of the was an emissary of Klaw & Erlanger. They could not arrive at satisfactory terms, and the agent left with Ellinge's promise to call on the firm as soon as college closed for the summer vacation. Wives of Windsor."

In April at McVicker's Theater in Children and the properties of the was immediately made the prey of the was in mediately made the prey of the was in mediately made the prey of the was among them is to be given by Beerbohm Tree in Mr. Mantell's repertoire next season. Berlin in the spring. The English actor's repertoire for his engagement in the New Amsterdam Theater, New York, Maclyn Arbuckle is today beginning rehearsal of "The Round Up," which is to have its first performance in Mr. Mantell's repertoire next season. Berlin in the spring. The English actor's repertoire for his engagement in drawing. Standard of the New Amsterdam Theater, New York, Maclyn Arbuckle is today beginning rehearsal of "The Round Up," which is to have its first performance in Mr. Mantell's repertoire next season. Berlin in the spring. The English actor's repertoire for his engagement in drawing. Standard remains a drawing.

Wiss Flsie Janis and her mother and the importance of the washington today visting several friends. A spleadid reception of another Continental foreign actor fad after this fashion:

Wiss Flsie Janis and her mother and the washington today visting several friends. A spleadid reception of another Continental foreign actor, an Italian, Signor Ermete Novelli, by a spleadid reception of another Continental foreign actor fad after this fashion:

At the New Amsterdam Theater, New York, Maclyn Arbuckle is today begin and Gus Mager have already contributed drawings.

The could not arrive at satisfactory the New Amsterdam Theater in Children and Gus Mager have already contributed drawings. tion is being planned for them by a edified South America, from time to ember of the members of the younger time, but has not yet invaded our Rose Stahl, asked for a definition of ocial set when they reach their apart-repartee, replied: "Repartee is what your ments at the New Willard. Miss Janis and the immediate consequence of his found he had again scored the bull'seye of record business in this city for the manner. Eltinge informed him, with the lofty maner of inexperienced youth, that he wished to see Mr. Erlanger.

"Mr. Erlanger is year, larger "Mr. Erlanger is very busy right now," said the little man. "Won't I do"
"You go and tell Mr. Erlanger," said Editinge, in the tone one uses to an office boy, "that Mr. Eltinge, of Boston, wishes to see him right away."
"I guess I am the man you want to see," came the quiet answer. "I am Miss Anglin. It even surpassed any one night's receipts during the Bernhardt engagement last season, though the "Mary Is a Grand Old Name" and "So Long, Mary," are two songs that have preceded Fay Templeton and "Forty-sive Minutes from Broadway" by many moons.

Each New York theater will fit up a special booth at the Actors' Fund fair at the Metropolitan Opera House," I'm going to make a million dollars out of "The Music Master.' loud. Last week at St. Louis the trasted with that which is exemplified of first class ability. If there is anything at all in the story it is altogether

ideal operatic manager, while Oscar is

probable it will be found that Mr. Ham "Salome" will not be seen in America again this season according to the pres-ent plans of Mr. Conried. The supsario \$30,000 cash outlay without considof thought Mr. Conried would make some

certain that Melba is not only the great-

est artist alive, but is a busine

New York to Have Yet Another Opera House?—New Broadhurst Play Rather Slow. Two of Shaw's "Unpleasant Plaus" Produced—Ben Greet at the Garden-Other News.

port which gained a wide currency this ciais" later in the week. The Broadwas to be backed by unlimited capital. it is not quite up to Broadhust's reputarectors of the Metropolitan Opera House whatever about "The Mills of the Gods and that this would be merged in the they certainly do grind slowly. The Melha and that when the air cleared it story, and a hero who has neither pla

JESSE BUSLEY AND BYRON DOUGLAS IN THE BISHOPS CARRIAGE" AT THE COLUMBIA

NEW YORK, March 9.—Is New York Broadway this week. Interest has been to have three grand opera houses? divided between a new Broadhurst play on Monday night and some "Shaw Spenort which could be the state of the s week to the effect that Mme. Melba was to be at the head of a great temple of dramatic music, which should eclipse that it is not quite up to Broadhurst's anything of the kind in the world, and The first story had it that some of the tion of today as author of "The Man men interested in the scheme were di- of the Hour." There can be no doubt new scheme. A variation was that Oscar play struggles with two bad faults-a Hammerstein was in the scheme with slight and absolutely conventional love would see New York with one home for nor sense. I is played by a thoroughly grand opera, the finest and most up-to-competent company—too competent in date which the mind of man could con-ceive, with Meiba and Hammerstein in in such parts. Robert Drouet apparentjoint control, the Metropolitan Opera ly gets out of patience with his foolish House site turned over to business purposes, and the Manhattan Opera House degenerates into a whine. Florence devoted to another branch of dramatic Rockwell does her best, but she really art and Herr Conried eliminated. Since hasn't half a chance. Edgar Selwyn and reports started there has been the usual Frank Sheridan both have pretty good crop of denials, half-admissions and the like, and it is impossible to form any Louise Closser as a delightfully "wise" accurate idea as to what the situation and slangy typewriter gives a vivid little character study. The play tells the story of a young

man who, to save the life of a sister to whom he is devoted, commits em bezzlement and falls victim to a blackagainst the hardship of State prison, he success under an alias his old associate this time interfering in the poor fellow's

whole affair and is saved further annoy-

ance by a governor's pardon.

From which it will appear that "The Mills of the Gods" is a comedy drama of the good, old-fashioned near-melodrama. sort, and that it ought to be a great success on the road. But whether it will live long on Broadway is more than

On Monday night also the Ben Greet players began an engagement of four weeks at the Garden Theater. For his first selection he played "The Merchant of Venice" very much as he has done it here-and elsewhere-before. He is fairly popular here, his productions being for some unknown reason regarded as educational, and was welcomed by fair-sized audience, which seemed to like the performance. Next he is to play "As You Like It;" then "Julius Caesar," and during Holy Week, "Everyman.

have been produced during the week-Widowers' Houses," which has never before been done, and "Mrs. Warren's police. "Widowers' Houses" inaugu rated a series of special matinees at the Herald Square on Thursday afternoon. It is played by a particularly good company, but it is a particularly tiresome William F. Hawtrey, as Sartorius, and Ferdinand Gottschalk, as Lickchuse, really distinguished themselves. Herbert Kelcey might have been a better Cokane had he worked less hard, but he also might have been worse. Effie Shannon was a bit too intense, though she did some clever work.

'Mrs. Warren's Profession" is inaugurating a regular run tonight at the Ratcliffe in the leading parts, and with small prospect of police interference to help out with the advertising.

Robert Hillard, who was to have been seen this year in W. A. Tremayor's "The Turn of the Tide," has once more abandoned the "legitimate" field and is



THE BOY BEHIND THE GUN AT THE MAJESTIC

thought Mr. Conried would make some effort to recoup on his tour through the country, but it is officially announced own making, entitled "The Man Who that "Salome" will not be given en Won the Pool." The playlet was adapttour.

I here has been nothing of really palpitating interest in a theatrical way on with his not inconsiderable abilities than